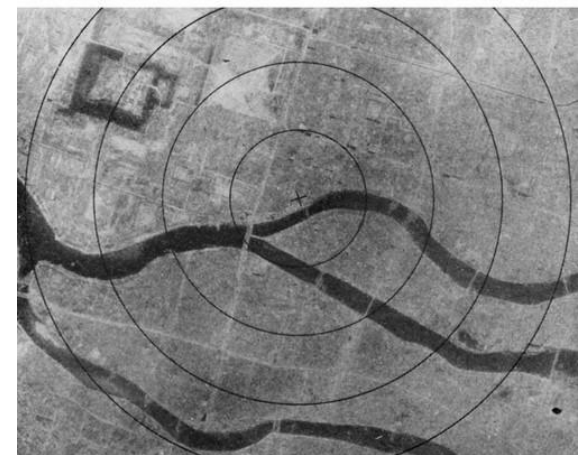
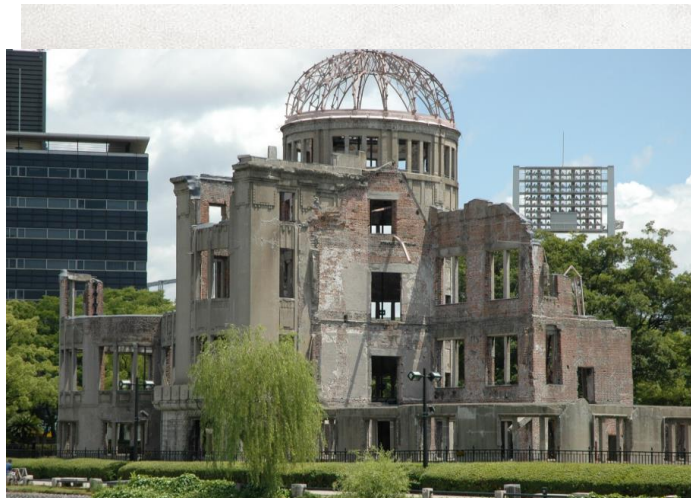


# INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN STUDIES I

An Introduction

# Historical Dates

- August 6, 1945
  - Hiroshima
- Hiroshima Peace Memorial
  - Designed by the Czech architect Jan Letzel in 1915 as the Hiroshima Prefectural Exhibition Hall



Hiroshima before and after bombing on Aug. 6, 1945  
Source: <http://biblio.org/hyperwar/A&F/USSBS/AtomicEffects/AtomicEffects-2.html>

# Santa Margherita di Liguria, Italy



# Who's this?



- Cristoforo Colombo
- Cristóbal Colón
- Christopher Columbus
- c. 1451-1506
- Generally believed to have been born in Genoa (now Italy)
  - ▣ Some evidence for other possibilities (e.g. Barcelona)
- Some claim he was raised in Santa Margherita

## Other statues of Columbus:

L: Bremerhaven, Germany, Ludwig Habich, c. 1900

R: Vienna, Austria, Josef Cesar, 1862



# What is the significance of Columbus?

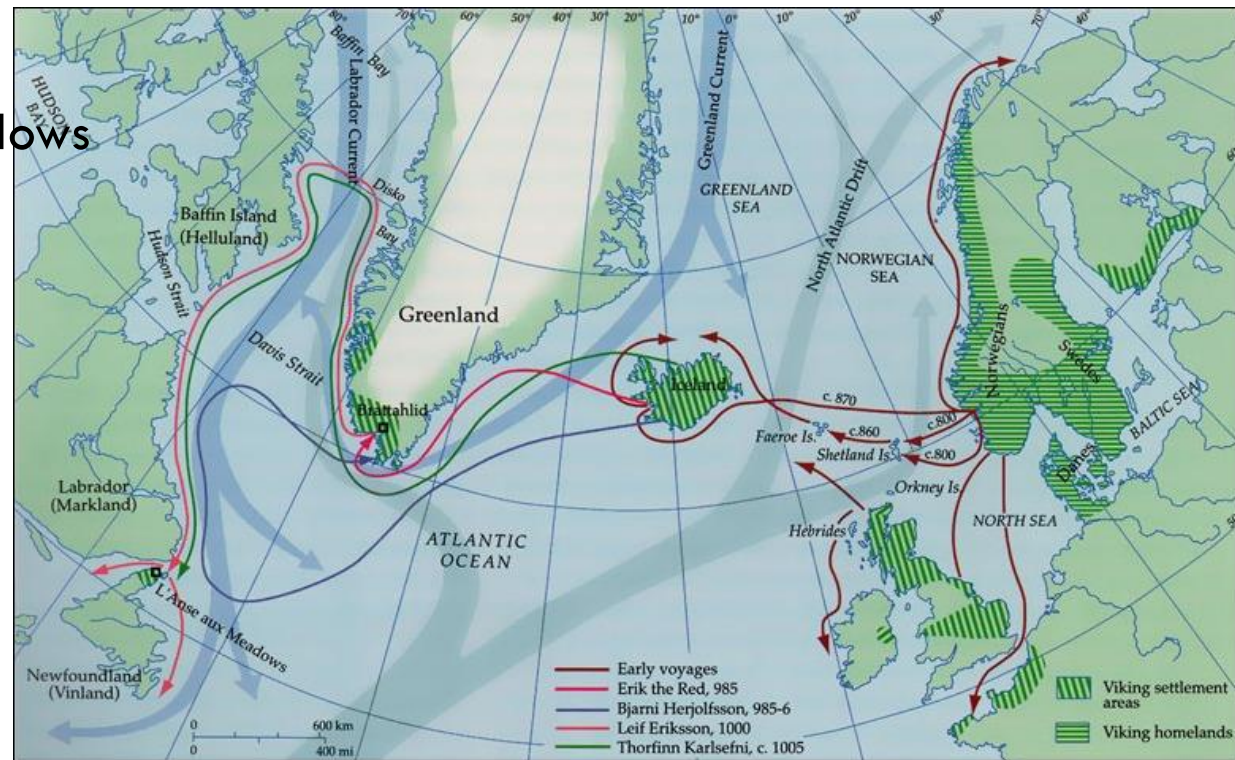
## □ Was he the first European?

### ▣ Norse (Vikings)

- L'Anse aux Meadows  
c. 1000 A.D.

## □ Other claimants?

- ▣ Egyptians
- ▣ Phoenicians
- ▣ Welsh
- ▣ Chinese
- ▣ Japanese
- ▣ Polynesians

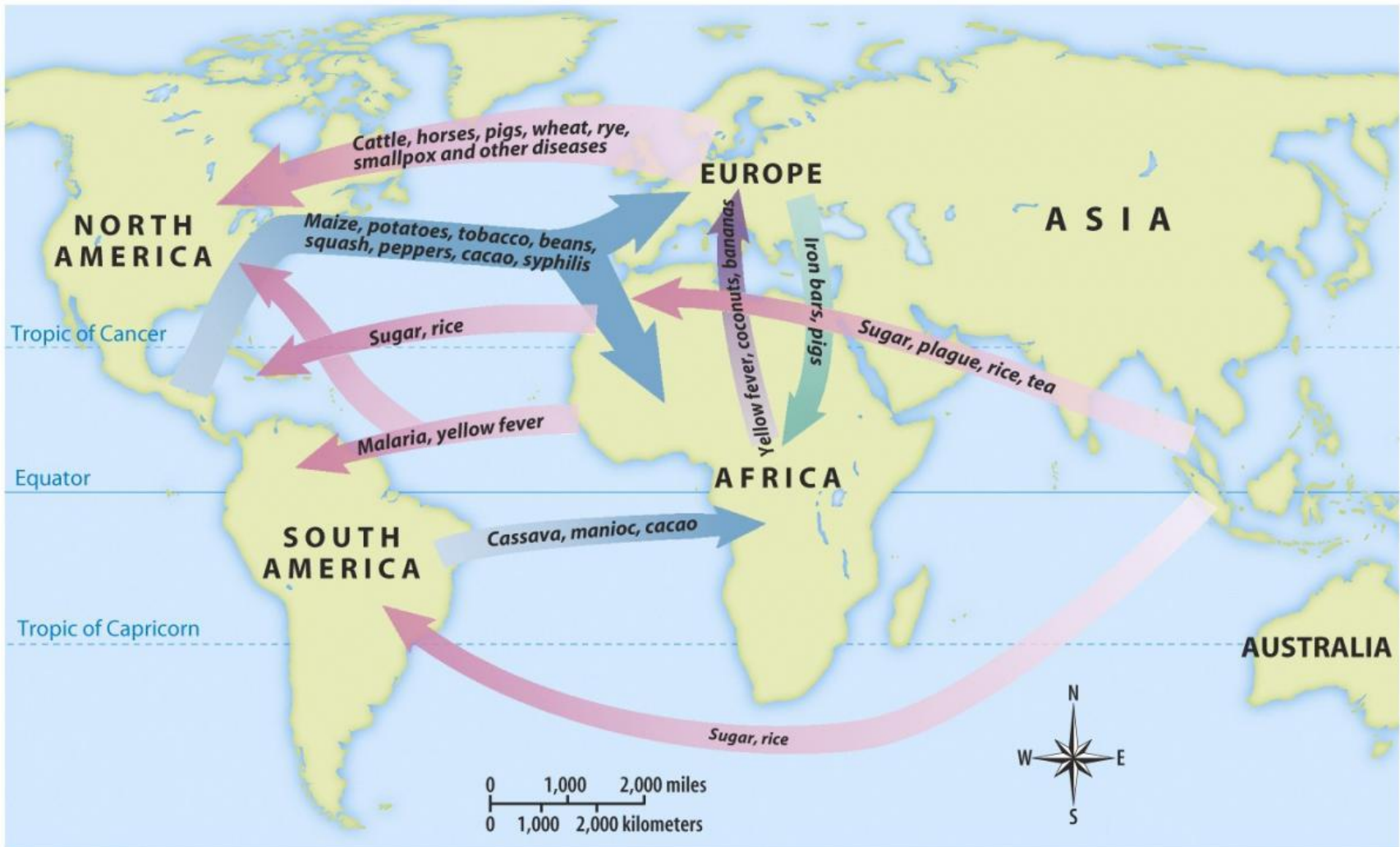


# The Columbian Exchange

- Term developed in 1972 by the environmental historian Alfred Crosby
- Old World → New World
  - Technology
    - Iron and other smelted metals
    - Gunpowder & firearms
    - Plow
  - People (16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries)
    - Europeans
    - Africans
- New World → Old World
  - Gold
  - Silver
  - Animal furs

	Old World → New World	New World → Old World
domestic animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cattle</li> <li>• chickens</li> <li>• goats</li> <li>• horses/donkeys</li> <li>• pigs</li> <li>• sheep</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• alpacas</li> <li>• guinea pigs</li> <li>• llamas</li> <li>• turkeys</li> </ul>
crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• banana</li> <li>• barley</li> <li>• citrus fruits</li> <li>• coffee</li> <li>• melons</li> <li>• oats</li> <li>• rice</li> <li>• sugar cane</li> <li>• wheat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• avocado</li> <li>• cacao</li> <li>• cassava</li> <li>• maize (corn)</li> <li>• peanut</li> <li>• peppers</li> <li>• pineapple</li> <li>• potato</li> <li>• squash</li> <li>• sunflower</li> <li>• tobacco</li> <li>• tomato</li> <li>• vanilla</li> </ul>
diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• chicken pox</li> <li>• common cold</li> <li>• gonorrhea</li> <li>• influenza</li> <li>• malaria</li> <li>• measles</li> <li>• mumps</li> <li>• smallpox</li> <li>• tuberculosis</li> <li>• typhus</li> <li>• whooping cough</li> <li>• yellow fever</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• syphilis (?)</li> </ul>

# The beginnings of “Globalization”





# Christopher Columbus

- October 12, 1492
- Christopher Columbus leading a group of 3 ships – The *Niña*, *Pinta* and *Santa María* – lands on an island in the Caribbean. He believes that he is in India...
- He names the island “San Salvador” and claims the island in the name of the King and Queen of Spain by the right of discovery

# What is the power of words?

- The island's residents knew it as "Guanahani"
- What is the power of naming?
- What is the significance of the word "discovery"?
  - 1  $\alpha$ : to make known or visible: expose
  - *b* archaic: display
  - 2  $\alpha$ : to obtain sight or knowledge of for the first time:  
find
  - *b*: find out

# What are Columbus's words?

- “It appears to me, that the people are ingenious, and would be good servants and I am of opinion that they would very readily become Christians, as they appear to have no religion. They very quickly learn such words as are spoken to them. If it please our Lord, I intend at my return to carry home six of them to your Highnesses, that they may learn our language. I saw no beasts in the island, nor any sort of animals except parrots.”
  - 12 October 1492, *Journal of the First Voyage*
- “So that they are good to be ordered about, to work and sow, and do all that may be necessary, and to build towns, and they should be taught to go about clothed and to adopt our customs.”
  - 16 December 1492, *Journal of the First Voyage*
- “From here one might send, in the name of the Holy Trinity, as many slaves as could be sold, as well as a quantity of Brazil [timber]. If the information I have is correct, it appears that we could sell four thousand slaves, who might be worth twenty millions and more”
  - September 1498, *Journal of the Third Voyage*

# Index to Columbus's account of his journeys:

## Gold

Gold: its abundance in the Indies, 14, 56, 88, 236, 367, 369, 375, 383n, 384; and blood, 340, 367; and Columbus, 13, 20, 21, 369; cost of, 367; debased, 379; detrimental effect of, 290n, 375; its effect on scientific research, 375n; and Enciso, 80; fed to Spaniards, 340n; fluidity of, 376–77; God's gift to the Spaniards, 374, 382n, 383, 384; in Hispaniola, 18, 70, 370; historical role of, 374–76; in Jamaica, 21; as lure to the Indies, 55, 56, 319, 366–73; as mainspring of Spanish action, 368–69; mentioned in capitulations, 118; and Michele da Cuneo, 31; origin of, 66; and Peter Martyr, 51, 57, 73, 375–76; as ransom for Holy Sepulcher, 21n, 384; reflected in colonists' faces, 366–67; in rivers, 73, 370; scorned by natives, 55n, 114; as sole appeal of the Indies, 121; and spices, 369–76. *See also* El Dorado



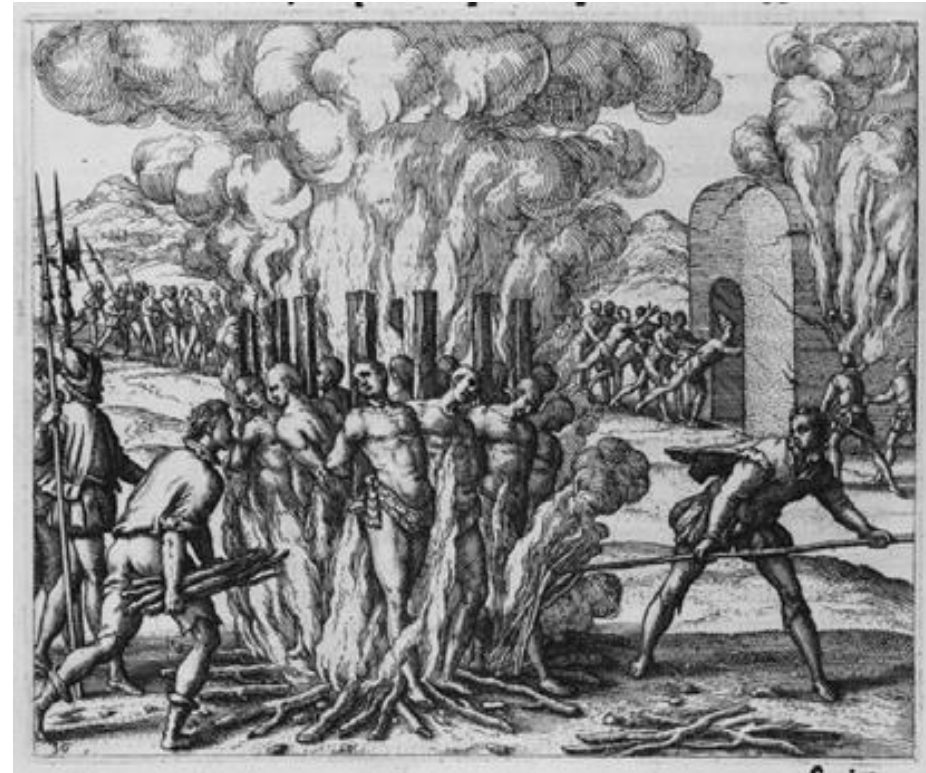
Excerpts and engravings from *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies* (1542) by Bartolomé de las Casas

- They [the Spanish] would erect long gibbets ... and bind thirteen of the Indians at one time, in honour and reverence, they said, of Our Redeemer and the twelve Apostles, and put firewood around it and burn the Indians alive.



Excerpts and engravings from *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies* (1542) by Bartolomé de las Casas

- [T]he lord asked the holy father whether Christians went to the sky. The priest replied that they did, but only those who were good. And the cacique then said ... that he did not desire to go to the sky, but rather down to hell, so that he would not be where they were and would not see such cruel people.



- *Christopher Columbus* (1892), Jeronimo Suñol
- Commissioned by the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society
- Located in Central Park, New York City
- Defaced on Tuesday, October 12, 2017





# What are the images of “discovery”?

“Columbus, as he first arrives in India, is received by the inhabitants and honored with the bestowing of many gifts”

*Grand Voyages, Americae, Vol. IV (1594)*

Theodor de Bry

b. 1528, Liège

d. 1598,  
Frankfurt



# What are the images of “discovery”?

America (1598)

“Americus  
rediscovers  
America”

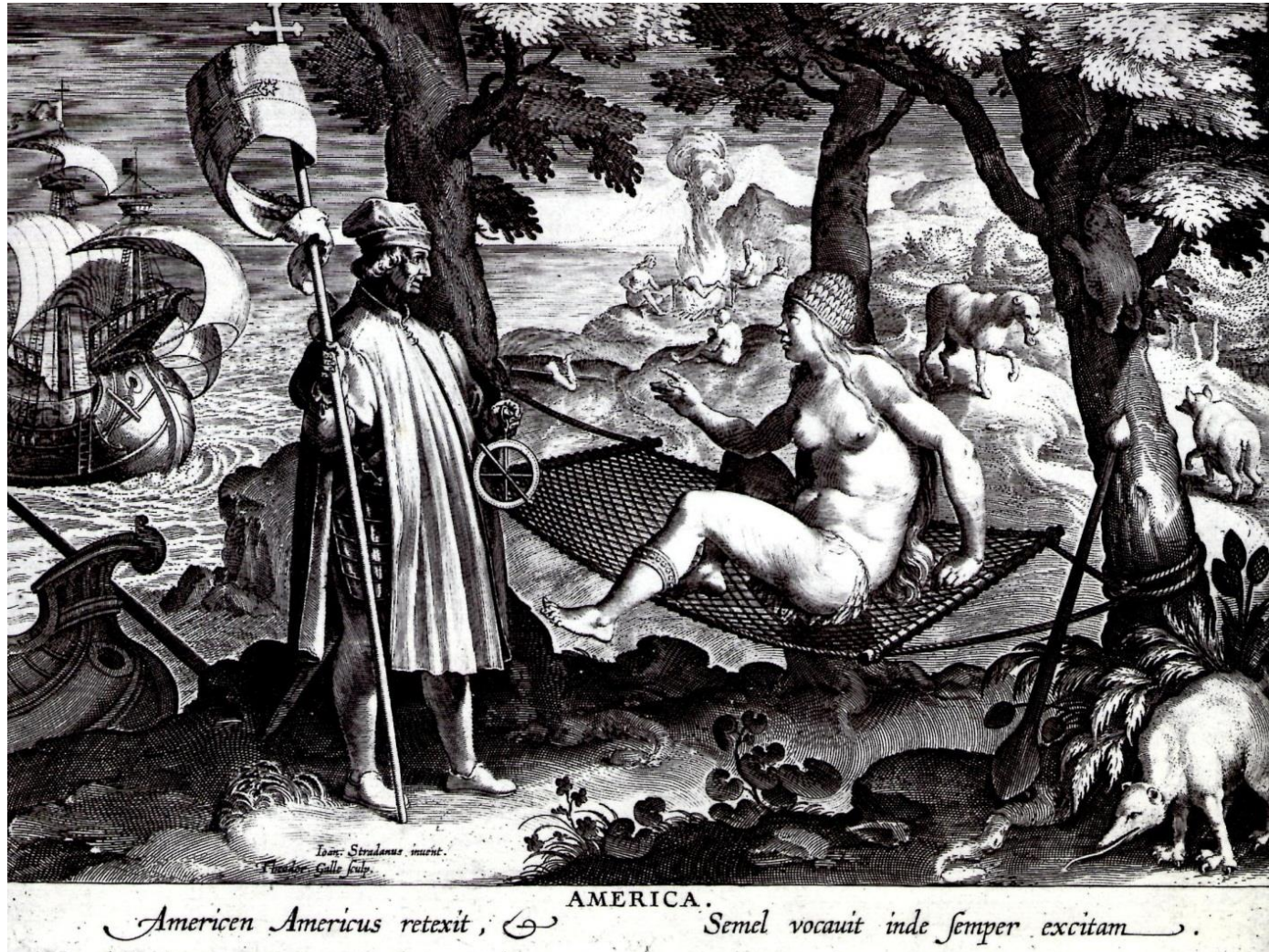
“He called her but  
once and  
thenceforth she  
was always  
awake”

*Nova Reperta* [New  
Discoveries]

Jan van der Staet  
(Stradanus)

b. 1523, Flanders

d. 1605, Florence



# What are the images of “discovery”?

Discovery of the  
New World (1621)

*Nova Typis  
Transacta  
Navigatio* (Austria)

Wolfgang Kilian

b. 1581, Germany

d. 1662, Germany

The original copper  
plate engraving is  
in the National  
Museum of  
American History



# What are the images of “discovery”?

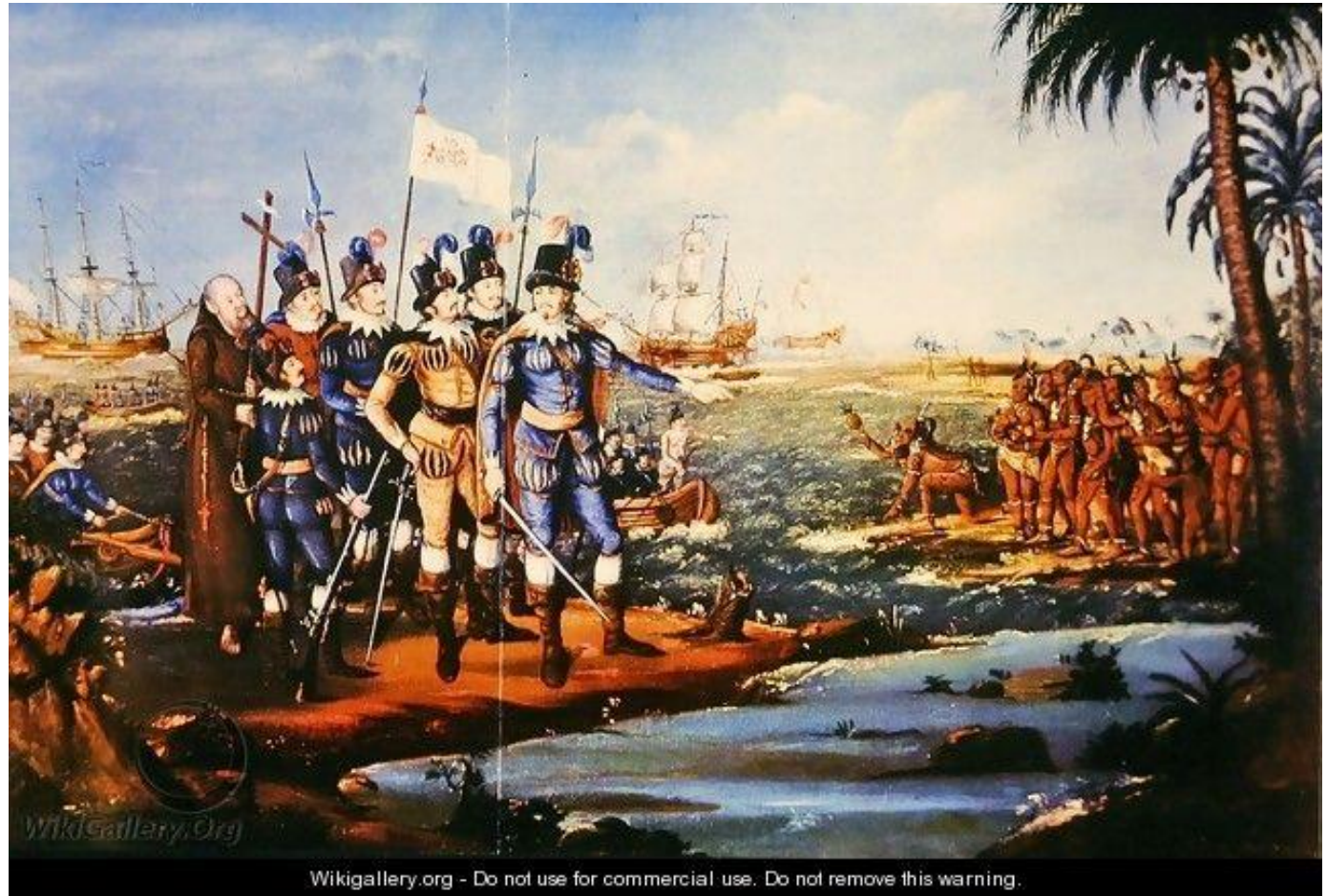
*The Landing of  
Columbus in the  
New World  
(1803)*

National Gallery  
of Art,  
Washington, D.C.

Frederick  
Kemmelmeyer

b. 1788,  
Germany

d. 1816,  
Maryland



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# What are the images of “discovery”?

*Landing of  
Columbus (1847)*

Rotunda, U.S.  
Capitol building

John Vanderlyn

b. 1775, New  
York

d. 1852, New  
York



# What are the images of “discovery”?

*The First Landing  
Of Christopher  
Columbus (1862)*

Museo del  
Prado, Madrid,  
Spain

Dióscoro Teófilo  
Puebla Tolín

b. 1831, Burgos,  
Spain

d. 1901,  
Madrid, Spain



# What are the images of “discovery”?

*The Landing of  
Columbus (1893)*

3 versions  
-American  
Museum of  
Natural History  
(destroyed 1960)  
-Newark Museum  
and City of  
Plainfield (New  
Jersey)

Albert Bierstadt

b. 1832,  
Germany

d. 1902, New  
York



# What are the images of “discovery”?

*Columbus  
Taking  
Possession of  
the New  
Country  
(1893)*

Lithograph by  
L. Prang & Co.





# What are the images of “discovery”?

*Columbus at San Salvador*  
(from the series *The Pageant of a Nation* c. 1895-1912)

Jean Leon  
Gerome Ferris

b. 1863,  
Philadelphia,  
PA

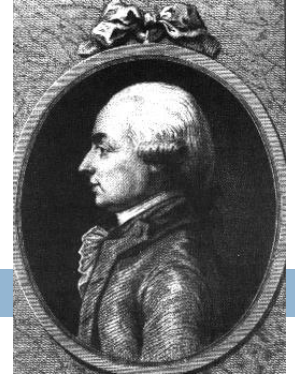
d. 1930



# Basic questions for this course

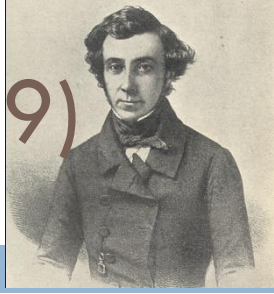
- How similar are Americans and Europeans in terms of attitudes, outlooks, perspectives, senses of identity?
- If throughout its history, the majority of the people of the United States have either been immigrants from Europe or their descendants, why are the attitudes, outlooks, perspectives, senses of identity, etc., of Americans and Europeans so different?
- The search for the answers to this question has been one that has long employed American and European scholars, writers and thinkers.

# 1782



- John Hector St. John De Crevecoeur (1735-1815)
- Born in Caen, Normandy, he immigrated to America in 1755
- In 1782, he published *Letters from An American Farmer*
- Letter III:
  - “What then is the American, this new man?...He is an American, who, leaving behind him all his ancient prejudices and manners, receives new ones from the new mode of life he has embraced, the new government he obeys, and the new rank he holds. He has become an American by being received in the broad lap of our great Alma Mater. **Here individuals of all races are melted into a new race of man, whose labors and posterity will one day cause great changes in the world.** Americans are the western pilgrims.” (*emphasis added*)

# 1835: Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859)



- French aristocrat who travelled between 1831-1833 with Gustave de Beaumont on a charter to examine American prisons.
- *Democracy in America*: First published in French as *De la démocratie en Amérique* in two volumes (Volume 1–1835, Volume 2–1840)
- **“Everything is extraordinary in America, the social condition of the inhabitants as well as the laws; but the soil upon which these institutions are founded is more extraordinary than all the rest. When the earth was given to men by the Creator, the earth was inexhaustible; but men were weak and ignorant, and when they had learned to take advantage of the treasures which it contained, they already covered its surface and were soon obliged to earn by the sword an asylum for repose and freedom. Just then North America was discovered, as if it had been kept in reserve by the Deity and had just risen from beneath the waters of the Deluge.”** (*emphasis added*)

*Democracy in America*, Volume 2, Chapter IX

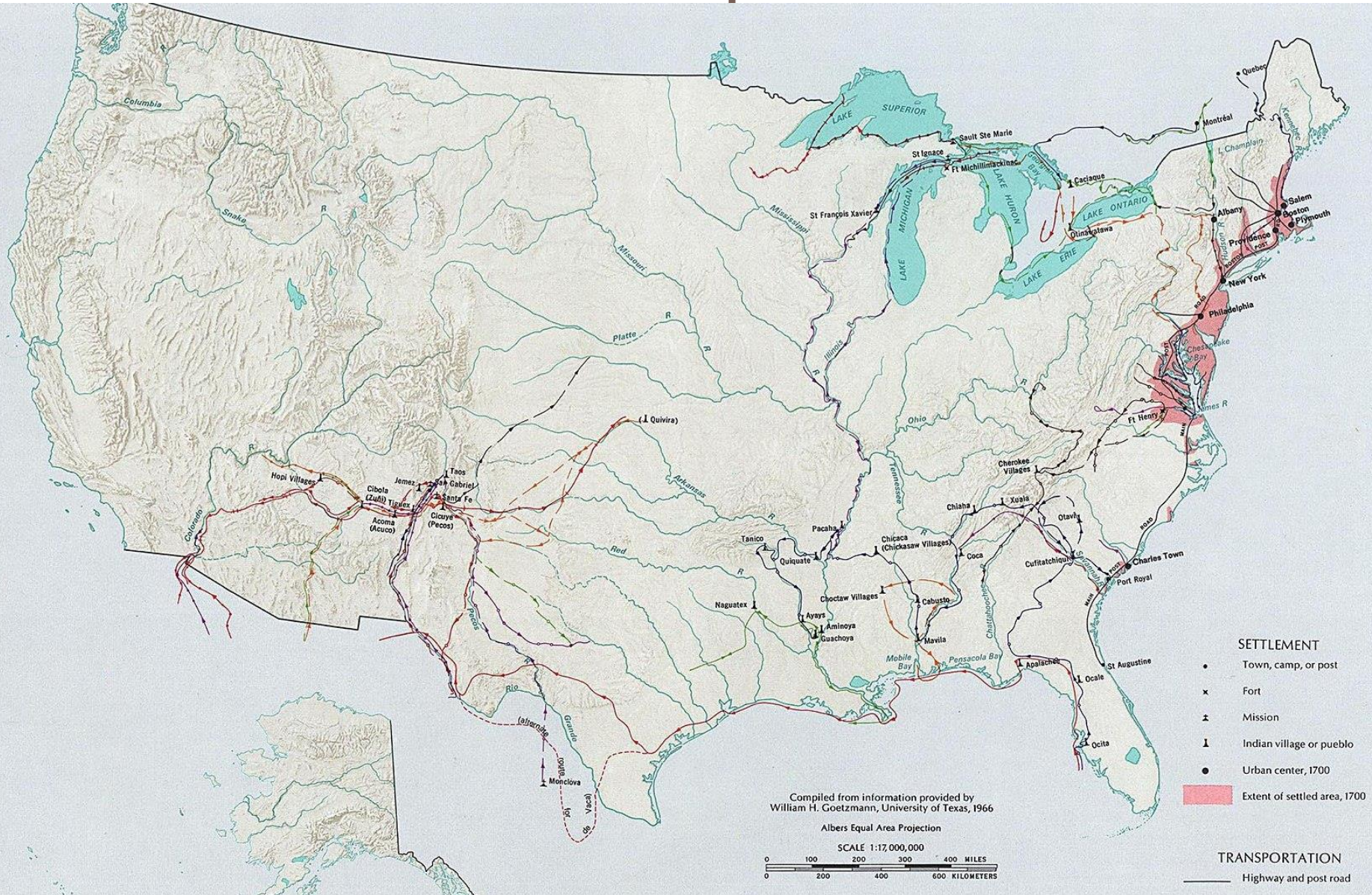
- “The position of the Americans is therefore quite exceptional, and it may be believed that no democratic people will ever be placed in a similar one. **Their strictly Puritanical origin, their exclusively commercial habits, even the country they inhabit, which seems to divert their minds from the pursuit of science, literature, and the arts, the proximity of Europe, which allows them to neglect these pursuits without relapsing into barbarism,** a thousand special causes, of which I have only been able to point out the most important, have singularly concurred to fix the mind of the American upon purely practical objects. His passions, his wants, his education, and everything about him seem to unite in drawing the native of the United States earthward; his religion alone bids him turn, from time to time, a transient and distracted glance to heaven.” (*emphasis added*)

# What are some possible causes?

---

- “City Upon a Hill”
- American Exceptionalism
- Manifest Destiny
- The Frontier Hypothesis
- The Melting Pot
- Race-based slavery

# The history of exploration and colonization is a complex one



For example, do you know what is the oldest, continuously inhabited settlement in the U.S.?



- Acoma Pueblo, New Mexico
  - Established in c. 700 A.D., it has been continuously occupied since at least 1075 A.D.



# What is the oldest, continuously-occupied European-established settlement in the United States?



- St. Augustine, Florida (1565)
  - ▣ Area first explored in 1513; French establish Fort Caroline nearby in 1564
  - ▣ The Spanish attack the French fort and in the autumn establish their own settlement

# What is the oldest state capital?



- Santa Fe, New Mexico (1607)
  - ▣ Established by the Spanish and made capital of the province of Nuevo Mexico in 1610

# Regional Histories

- Regional histories and their non-British elements are important
  - ▣ The Spanish and Mexican impacts in the West and Southwest
  - ▣ The French impacts in Louisiana, in the Mississippi River Valley and Great Lakes region
  - ▣ The Dutch impacts in what is now New York
  - ▣ The German impacts in eastern Pennsylvania and the Ohio River valley
  - ▣ The Russian impacts in Alaska